

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DACCA 01000 251146Z

54

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SAM-01 NIC-01 PC-01 /073 W

----- 033985

R 250950Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5904

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DACCA 1000

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BG

SUBJECT: CHAIRMAN MUJIB: THE NATIONAL PARTY IS ANNOUNCED

SUMMARY. FEBRUARY 23 PRESIDENT MUJIBUR RAHMAN DECREED THE FORMATION OF A SINGLE NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY, TO BE CALLED THE BANGLADESH KRISHAK SRAMIK AWAMI LEAGUE (PEASANT-WORKERS PEOPLES LEAGUE). ALL OTHER PARTIES STAND DISSOLVED. MUJIB JUSTIFIED THIS STEP AS NECESSARY TO GIVE "FULL EFFECT TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY...NATIONALISM, SOCIALISM, DEMOCRACY, AND SECULARISM." MUJIB WILL BE CHAIRMAN. ALL MPS OF DEFUNCT AWAMI LEAGUE AND ALL MINISTERS, STATE MINISTERS, AND DEPUTY MINISTERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY MEMBERS OF THE NEW PARTY UNLESS THE PRESIDENT DIRECTS OTHERWISE. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DACCA 01000 251146Z

1. IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 23 PRESIDENT

MUJIBUR RAHMAN ISSUED THREE PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS ESTABLISHING A ONE PARTY STATE, AS PERMITTED UNDER THE RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. THE ORDERS TAKE THE FOLLOWING PATTERN:

A. UNDER POWERS CONFERRED ON HIM BY CLAUSE 1 OF ARTICLE 117A OF THE CONSTITUTION THE PRESIDENT IS "PLEASED HEREBY TO DIRECT THAT THERE SHALL BE ONLY ONE POLITICAL PARTY IN THE STATE." THIS IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO GIVE FULL EFFECT TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE STATE (NATIONALISM, SOCIALISM, DEMOCRACY, AND SECULARISM).

B. PER CLAUSES 2 AND 3 OF ARTICLE 117A, THE PRESIDENT "IS PLEASED TO FORM" A NATIONAL PARTY TO BE CALLED THE BANGLADESH KRISHAK SRAMIK AWAMI LEAGUE, WITH THE PRESIDENT AS CHAIRMAN. THE PRESIDENT SHALL TAKE ALL MEASURES NECESSARY FOR ITS ORGANIZATION AND ALL POWERS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT ITS AFFAIRS.

C. ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT BELONGING TO THE "DEFUNCT" AWAMI LEAGUE AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MINISTERS OF STATE, AND DEPUTY MINISTERS "SHALL BE DEEMED" MEMBERS OF THE NEW LEAGUE "UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE PRESIDENT." ALSO, UNTIL THE PRESIDENT ORGANIZES ZHNEW LEAGUE, ALL COMMITTEES OF ZHAWAMI LEAGUE EXCEPT FOR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SHALL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION TEMPORARILY AS COMMITTEES OF THE NEW LEAGUE.

2. WITH ONE EXCEPTION, THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC COMMENT YT ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT. THE BANGLADESH TIMES OF FEBRUARY 25 DOES REPORT THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED LEADER OF NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY/MUZAFFAR HAS CALLED THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION "CORRECT AND TIMELY." HE ALSO IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT NAP/M WOULD JOIN THE NATIONAL PARTY "SHORTLY" AND UNCONDITIONALLY.

3. OF SEVERAL EDITORIALS LAUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A ONE PARTY STATE, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT WAS THE MORNING NEWS' COMMENT THAT PARTY MEMBERSHIP WILL BE "SUPREME IN REGARD TO PARTICIPATION IN LAW-MAKING PROCESSES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DACCA 01000 251146Z

ADMINISTRATION PROCESSES." MORNING NEWS EMPHASIZED THAT IN A NEW "MONOLITHIC SYSTEM", NO ONE WOULD BE AN OUT-SIDER AND THAT MEMBERS OF TY BUREAUCRACY AND THE ARMED SERVICES, BY IMPLICATION TO BE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY, WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE FULLY TO THE GOALS OF THE NATION. ACCORDING TO THE MORNING NEWS, THE PARTY WOULD BE THE INSTRUMENT OF CHANGE IN SOCIETY AND "MEMBERSHIP WOULD MEAN THE HIGHEST HONOR ONE COULD GAIN IN THE SOCIETY

TO COME."

4. COMMENT. AS THE THIRD ORDER INDICATES, THE FIRST PRIORITY WILL BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SOURCES THAT THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE AT LOWER LEVELS WILL NOT BE KMGED FOR THE TIME BEING. THE AWAMI LEAGUE ORGANIZATION WILL CONTINUE IN EFFECT, ALTHOUGH TECHNICALLY THE RANK AND FILE NO LONGER EXISTS; MEMBERSHIP IN THE KSAL HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR NOW ONLY TO PARLIAMENTARIANS AND MINISTERS. CALLS FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND MASS COOPERATION NOTWITHSTANDING, INDICATIONS SO FAR SUGGEST THAT THE NEW PARTY WILL BE ELITIST IN CHARACTER. OUR VIEW IS REINFORCED NOT ONLY BY REPORTS THAT THERE WILL BE VARYING LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP BUT ALSO BY THE MORNING NEWS' EMPHASIS UPON THE HIGH HONOR THAT MEMBERSHIP WILL CONFER. BOSTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, REORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA01000
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750066-0189
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750216/aaaaanxa.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHAIRMAN MUJIB: THE NATIONAL PARTY IS ANNOUNCED SUMMARY. FEBRUARY 23 PRESIDENT MUJIBUR RAHMAN DECREED
TAGS: PINT, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006